



# **2013 Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting**

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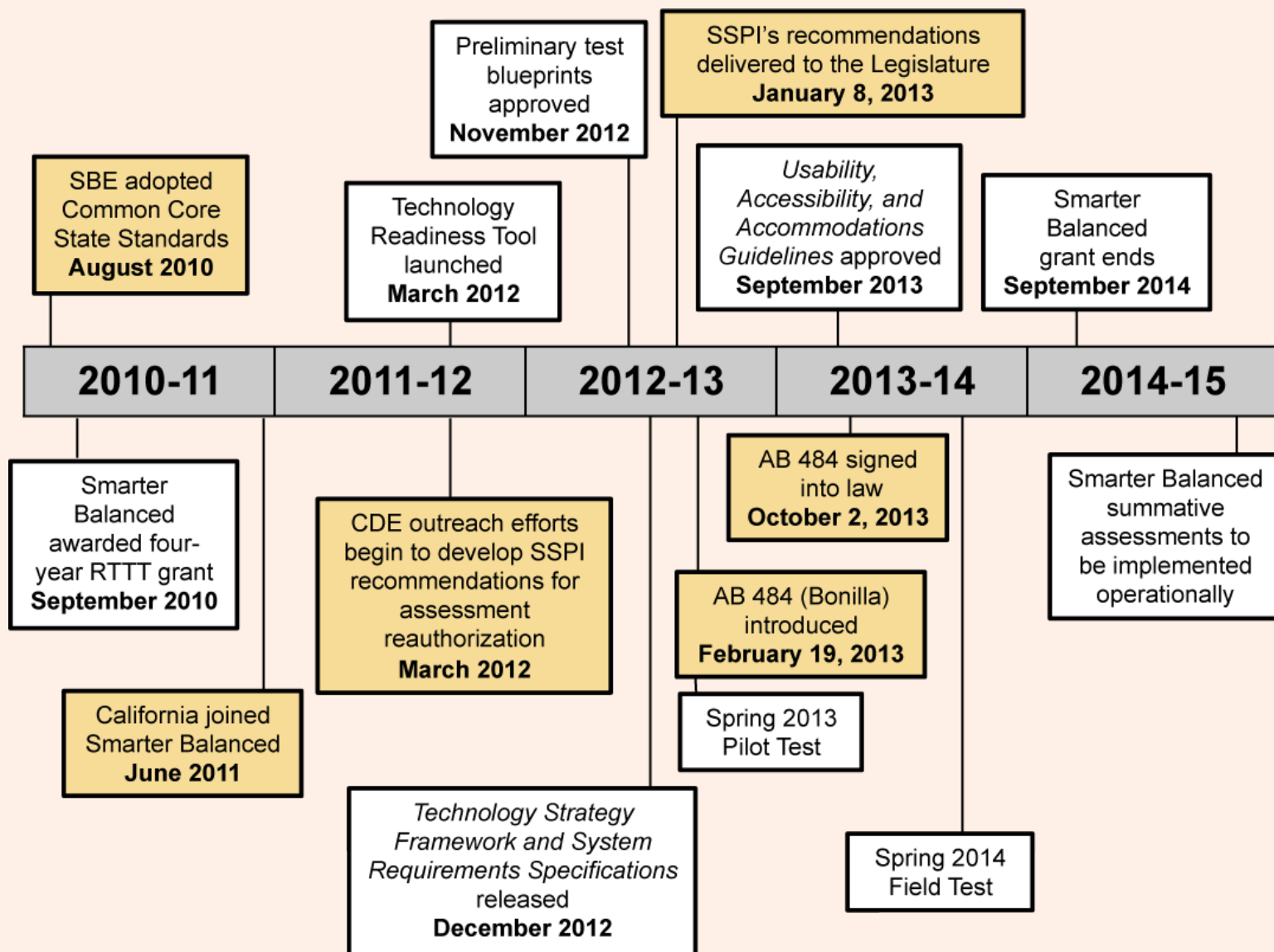
## **Smarter Balanced Assessment System Overview and Update on Development Activities**

**Jessica Valdez, Administrator  
Assessment Development and Administration Division**



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State Superintendent of  
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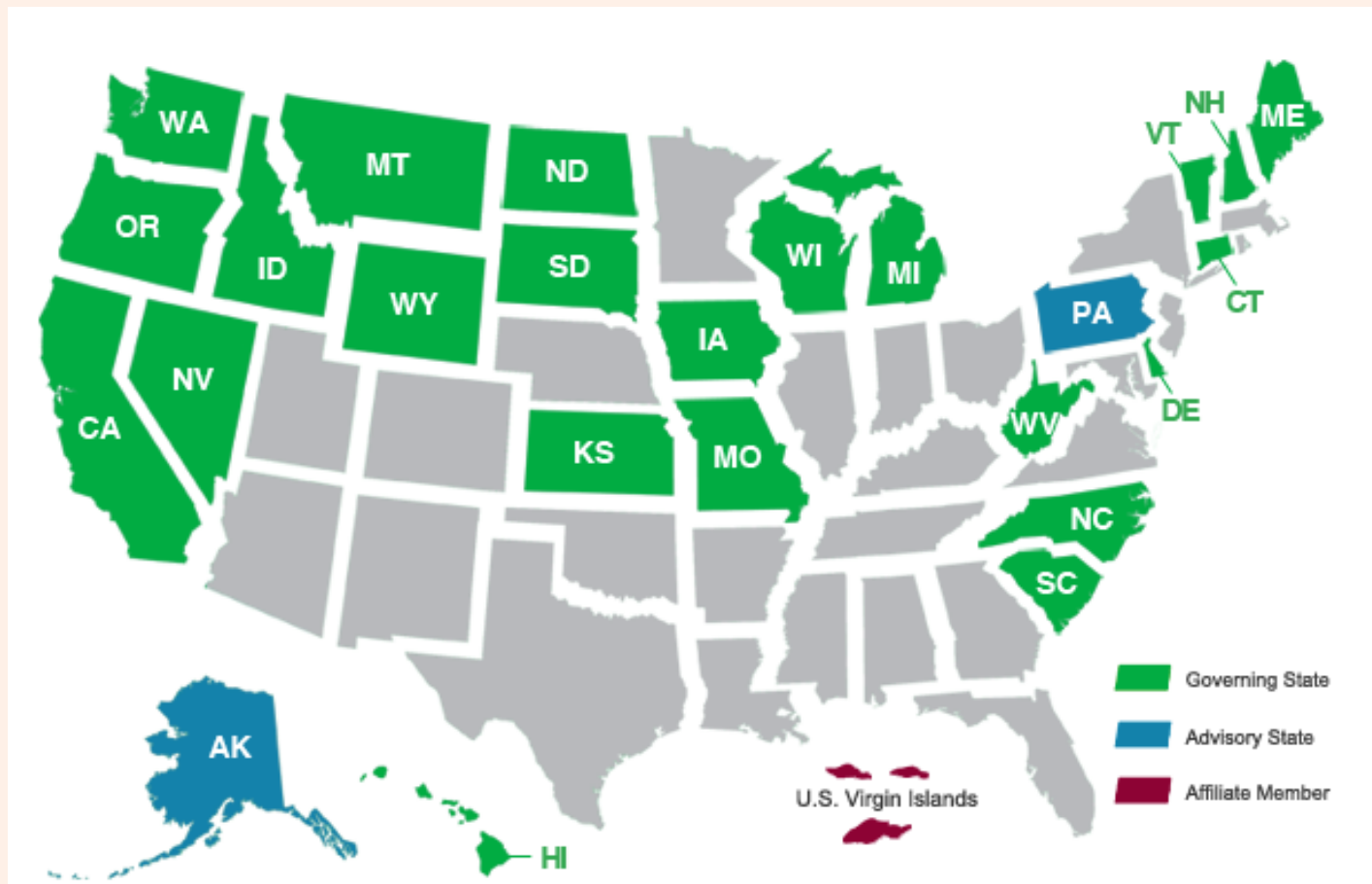
# Transition Milestones





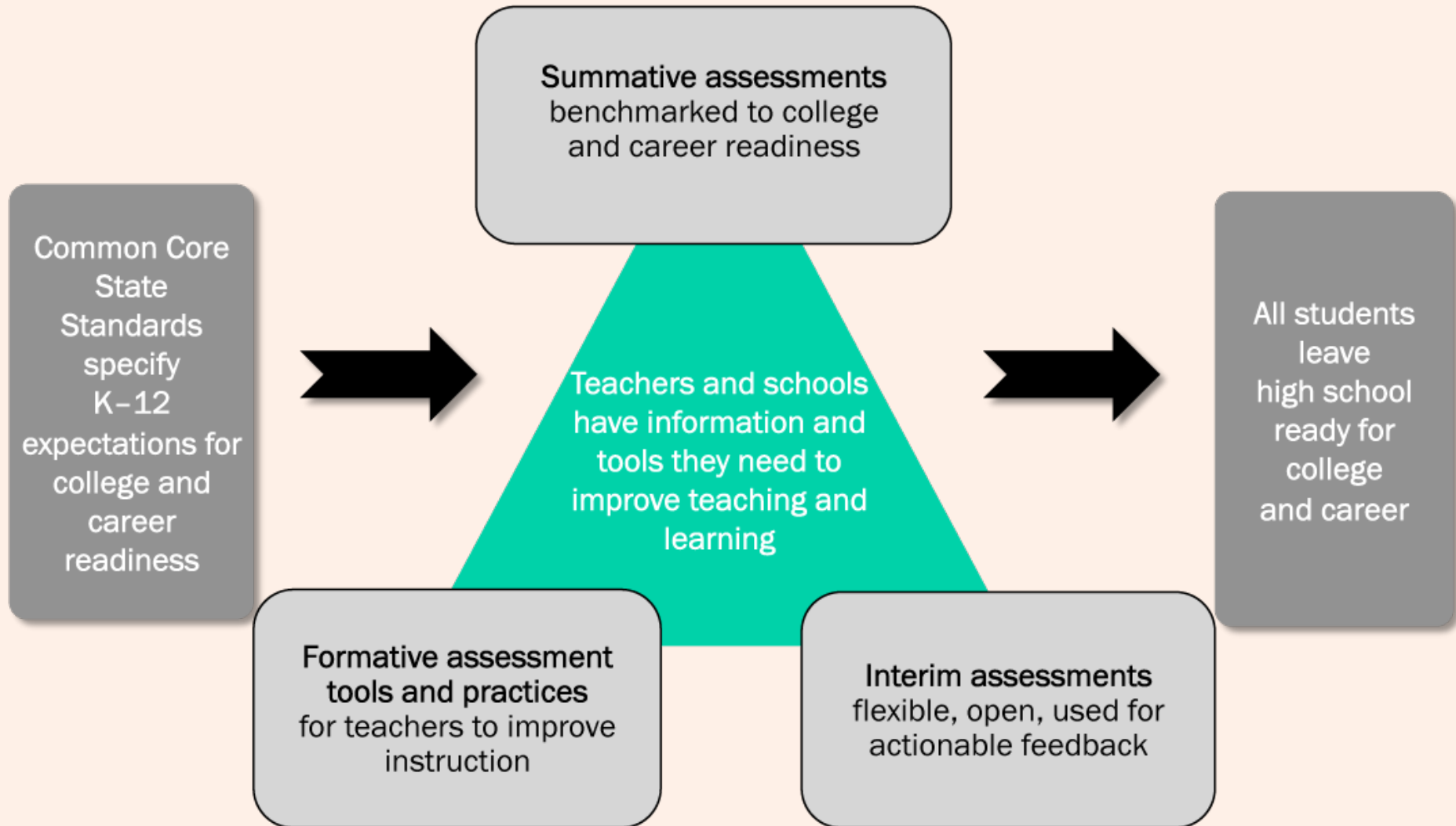
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# Smarter Balanced Member States



- 25 states educating over 19 million public K–12 students

# Smarter Balanced Assessment System





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# Smarter Balanced Spring 2013 Pilot Test

- In California, over 200,000 students in 1,400 schools participated.
- Data and survey results are being used to inform the development of the Field Test:
  - Test and item directions
  - Item specifications
  - Scoring rubrics
  - Display of test items and interactive item types



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# Field Test Purpose

*A field test is not designed to be a valid and reliable measure of student achievement; rather, it is designed to help the test developers evaluate whether the tests, individual items, and the technology platform work as intended before the first operational administration.*

— Deborah S. Delisle  
U.S. Department of  
Education



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# Benefits of Field Test Participation

- **Students** will have hands-on experience with the functionality of a computer-based assessment.
- **Teachers and administrators** will gain valuable exposure to administration logistics during a trial run.
- **Local educational agencies (LEAs)** will benefit from having learned where technology gaps may exist, and then can fully prepare for operational assessments.



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# Smarter Balanced Spring 2014 Field Test

- Will take place March 18–June 6, 2014. Shorter windows within this time frame will be assigned to schools by the CDE and ETS.
  - Will assess students in grades 3 through 11.
    - **Grades 3–8:** All students are expected to participate.
    - **Grades 9 and 10:** Only students selected for the scientific sample are expected to participate.
    - **Grade 11:\*** Students selected for the scientific sample are expected to participate; all others may participate.
- \* All grade 11 students may participate in the Early Assessment Program.





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# Smarter Balanced 2014 Field Test (cont.)

- Each participating student will take EITHER the ELA or math Field Test.
- Content area will be assigned by the CDE and ETS for each school by grade.
- Scientific sample will be comprised of 20 percent of students across consortium states (10 percent for ELA and 10 percent for math).
  - Over 680,000 California students will be selected for the scientific sample.
  - Data from this sample will be used to determine item reliability and validity and initial performance level scores.



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# Smarter Balanced 2014 Field Test (cont.)

- Test will be approximately 3 hours long.
- No paper-and-pencil version will be available.
- No student, school, or district score reports will be produced.
- Results will not be factored into any state or federal accountability calculations.
- CDE Smarter Balanced Field Test Web page:  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/>



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# Summative Testing Windows for the 2014–15 Smarter Balanced Operational Tests

- Windows were approved by governing states on September 10, 2013.
- In **grades 3–8**, 66 percent of a school's annual instructional days must be completed before testing can begin.
- In **grade 11**, 80 percent of a school's annual instructional days must be completed before testing can begin.



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# 2014–15 Summative Testing Windows (cont.)

- A state may establish more specific windows within the consortium-defined parameters.
- The CDE likely will take regulations to the State Board of Education to establish specific windows for California.



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# Smarter Balanced Digital Library

- Formative assessment component of the Smarter Balanced system of assessments
- Will contain formative assessment strategies and professional learning and instructional resources for educators
- Access provided to all California LEAs at no cost
- First stage of the Digital Library expected to be launched in April 2014



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# Smarter Balanced Digital Library (cont.)

- All resources must meet quality criteria to be included in the Digital Library.
  - Incorporates high-quality formative assessment practices
  - Reflects learner differences and supports personalized learning
  - Demonstrates utility, engagement, and user-friendliness
- Each Smarter Balanced member state has formed a State Network of Educators (SNE) to review and contribute proposed resources.
- 150 educators are on the California SNE team.



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# Smarter Balanced Digital Library (cont.)

- Will contain Web-based professional learning and instructional modules on topics such as:
  - Common Core State Standards
  - Assessment literacy
  - Understanding the Smarter Balanced content specifications
  - Formative assessment process within the context of the Smarter Balanced assessment system



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# Preliminary Test Blueprints

- Approved by governing states in November 2012
- Provide test development specifications, including content, number of items, item types, score points, and depth of knowledge for items
- Are considered preliminary until after review of the data gathered from the pilot and field tests
- Available under the heading “Preliminary Test Blueprints” on the Smarter Balanced Web page at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/>





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# Initial Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) and College Content-Readiness Policy

- Approved by governing states in spring 2013
- Articulate the knowledge and skills expected of students at different levels of performance
- Four types of ALDs:
  - Policy
  - Range
  - Threshold
  - Reporting
- Available on the Smarter Balanced Web site at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/achievement-level-descriptors-and-college-readiness/>



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# Smarter Balanced Item Response Types

- Multiple choice
  - one correct response
  - multiple correct responses
  - two-part
- Matching tables
  - yes/no
  - true/false
- Fill-in tables
- Select or order text or graphics
- Drag and drop
- Graphing
- Equation or numeric response
- Short text
- Long essay



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# Smarter Balanced Practice Tests

- Launched May 29, 2013; enhancements added in August 2013
- Provide students, parents, teachers, administrators the opportunity to become familiar with the online testing environment
- **Should not be used to guide instructional decisions regarding individual students**
- Available for ELA and math for each of grades 3 through 8 and grade 11
- Approximately 30 questions per test



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# Smarter Balanced Practice Tests (cont.)

- Letter template available for LEAs to announce availability of Practice Tests to parents and guardians in English, Spanish, and 17 other languages
- Practice test information, including notification letter templates and scoring guides, available on CDE Practice Tests Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>
- Practice Test Help Desk
  - Phone: 855-833-1969
  - E-mail: [smarterbalancedhelpdesk@ets.org](mailto:smarterbalancedhelpdesk@ets.org)



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# Smarter Balanced *Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines*

- Approved by governing states on September 10, 2013
- Intended for use beginning with the spring 2014 Field Test
- Describe three types of student support:
  1. **Universal tools**, available to **all students**. Examples include spell-check, highlighter, embedded ruler, strikethrough, and English dictionary.



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# ***Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines (cont.)***

- 2. Designated supports**, available to **identified students**, including English learners, struggling readers, and students with attention deficits.  
Examples include color-contrast text, the blocking of distracting content, stacked translations, and bilingual dictionary.



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# ***Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines (cont.)***

- 3. Accommodations, available to students with an individualized education program or a 504 plan** that specifies the need for such an accommodation. Examples include closed captioning, Braille, calculator, and scribe.

The *Guidelines* document is available on the CDE Smarter Balanced Accessibility and Accommodations Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/access.asp>.



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# Smarter Balanced Spanish Web Page

- Downloadable fact sheets for teachers, parents, and students
- Description of research that helped design assessment items that reduce linguistic burdens
- Available on Smarter Balanced Web site at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/como-ayudar-a-todos-los-estudiantes-a-que-tengan-exito/>.





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# For Further Information

**Join the CDE Smarter Balanced Electronic Mailing List**  
[subscribe-sbac@mlist.cde.ca.gov](mailto:subscribe-sbac@mlist.cde.ca.gov)

**CDE Assessment Transition Office**  
[sbac@cde.ca.gov](mailto:sbac@cde.ca.gov)  
916-445-8517

**Technology Readiness Coordinator**  
[sbac-itreadiness@cde.ca.gov](mailto:sbac-itreadiness@cde.ca.gov)

**CDE Smarter Balanced Web Page**  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sbac/>

**Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Web Site**  
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org>